WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER JANUARY 2026

ARA REPEATER NETORK

The ARA is the Appalachian Repeater Association. Currently it's network of linked repeaters extends from Marion County in West Virginia to South Carolina along the backbone of the Appalachian Mountains. Its repeater membership is growing every day. Some repeaters are accessible only when their control operators connect them to the ARA. That may be a long-term solution for the Kanawha County repeaters listed in this email. For now, their connection is full time.

The ARA system is used for all aspects of Amateur Emergency Communication and general talking with other Hams when not used in Emergency Service. Just like on our local repeater systems, nets and general rag chewing are also common on the ARA.

The ARA system is linked to the 146.88 and the 444.95 repeaters in South Charleston; and the 146.82, near Hernshaw WV (also called Bee Mountain). The access tone on all three repeaters is 203.5 Hz. However, currently, the 146.88 repeater is ALSO accessible with no tone at all.

This may be a temporary condition. I will monitor the participation and acceptance of our local Ham Radio population to determine if a full time connection to the ARA is desired long term on one or all these repeaters or if it is just an experiment that will end at some point.

Check out the new connections on any of the repeaters listed above and let me know what you think. My email is My Call (below) @ Gmail.com or use my email as listed on QRZ.

For a partial list of ARA participating repeaters please see the following ink: https://www.ararepeaters.org/repeaters/

John Jones, WB8CQV
wb8cqv@gmail.com

He who hesitates is last, in the pile-up!

The way to a man's heart, and his pocketbook, is through his hobby.

Asking a dumb question is better than making a dumb mistake.

You can't tell by the looks of a radio how many payments are due.

SAVE THE DATES 2026 FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE ARRL WEBSITE	
January 24, 2026	First Wiireless-Coordinated High Seas Rescue Special Event
February 14, 2026	Ice Station W0JH – Frozen Minnesota Lake Portable Special Event
March 7, 2026	Charleston Area Hamfest And Computer Show
March 21, 2026	First LORAN (Long Range Navigation) Experimental Station Special Event
April 3, 2026	Tater Day 2026 -- Yam It Up Special Event
NCD*	Lincoln County High School Hamfest (HAMLIN)
April 18, 2026	World Amateur Radio Day
NCD*	Dayton, Ohio Hamvention
May 16, 2026	National Maritine Day Special Event Saturdayand Sunday
June 29, 2026	ARRL Field Day 2026
July 1, 2026	Thirteen Colonies Special Event – South Carolina
NCD*	WV State Amateur Radio Convention (FLATWOODS)
NCD*	Tri-State Hamfest (HUNTINGTON)
08/13/26	Amateur Radio At The State Fair
NCD*	Shelby, North Carolina Hamfest
September 12, 2026	Route 66 On The Air Special Event
NCD*	Parkersburg Area Hamfest (Mineral Wells)
November 1, 2026	KARC Trunk Junk Fest (COONSKIN Park, Charleston)
NCD*	Skywarn Recognition Day
NCD*	Jackson County Hamfest (RIPLEY)
*NCD-- No Confirmed Date.	

CLUB PRESENTATIONS

During a recent discussion with a few hams from around the state the topic of presentations at the various clubs came up. It seems some clubs have a presentation on some new topic each month. Others repeat the same topics every frew months.

One person said he was a “new” ham and didn't feel he had anything to talk about that would be of interest to more experienced hams. Another said the hams at her club didn't want to hear from a woman. A third said he was scared to talk in front of a crowd.

The “new” ham had just spent twenty minutes describing how he had gotten permission to connect and connected a buddy's radio to the gutter system at his assisted living facility so he could get back on the air. The woman had used her I-Pad to show us a website with free manual downloads and other publications we all found interesting. The third had had no problem descibing his new ham clock and how it was helping him track down potential DX contacts.

I pointed the inconsistencies out to the others and asked them to explain why we would be interested but others wouldn't? And why we would listen to a woman but her club wouldn't? And how talking to twenty-five friends shouldn't be much different that talking to three.

With the wide variety of modes, methods and techniques in amateur radio, and the constant evolution in digital communications, it seems all of us would have a lot to learn from each ther no matter how long we or they have been at it. Who better to learn from than other hams we can bounce questions off of later. And we'll all have questions later!

So, I have set a personal goal of developing two presentations on some topic related to amateur radio, ARES or disaster preparation this year. I challenge you to do the same. Let's stop having boring business meetings and discuss what we're really interested in: Amateur Radio!

73
Jim Hudson, KE8PNY

Most of the members of our club wear their hair in one of two styles; parted or departed.

Some people don't vote, because they vote the way they think.

WV SPLATTER

WV Splatter is a digital newsletter for all amateur radio operators in the Mountain State and anyone interested in the hobby regardless of where they live. If you know anyone who might be interested, pass it on. The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has posted all issues of this newsletter on their web page at www.wv8ar.com . It is also submitted each month to the *Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Technology.*

I welcome content for WV Splatter from all sources; book or equipment reviews, pictures, ham related jokes, annoucements of events in your area and items for sale or sought after. Send submissions to me at nettlescreek@frontier.com . Use the same email address to send an email address for anyone who wants added to the WV Splatter distribution list.

73 and thanks to all
Jim Hudson, KE8PNY

BATTERY SIZES (SOME NOT SOLD IN WALMART)

For years I've wondered were A and B batteries went to and why the sizes stopped at D. Thanks to the book ***Batteries in A Portable World*** by Isidor Buchmann I now know. The followeing information was taken from this book and online sources.

NAME	SIZE Diameter X Length	COMMENTS
F CELL	33 X 91 mm 1.3 X 3.55 inches	Introduced in 1896 for lanterns, later used in radios. Only available in Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cad) now. Sometimes found in four packs in 6 volt rectangular lanterns.
E CELL	I couldn't find demensions for this battery	Introduced around 1905 for hobby and lanterns. Discontinued around 1980.
D CELL	34 X 61 mm 1.35 X 2.42 inches	Introduced in 1898 for flashlights and radios. Still commonly used.
C CELL	25.5 X50 mm 0.87 X1.69 inches	Introduced about 1900 for smaller size. Still commonly used.
B CELL	21.5 X 60 0.85 X 2.36 inches	Introduced in 1900 for portable lighting applications. Most common in European 4.5 volt lanterns. Discontinued in 2001. NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH VACUMN TUBE B BATTERY!
A CELL	17 X 50 mm 67 X 1.97 inches	Only available in Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cad) now. Used in eary computer battery packs.
AA CELL	14.5 X 50 mm 0.57 X 1.99 inches	Penlight batteries first sold as paired cells around 1907. First single cell AA batteries sold around 1915 but didn't become popular until 1947.. Used in spy equipment in World War I. Also available in half sizes (14.0 to 14.5 X 25 mm.).
AAA CELL	10.5 X 44.5 mm 0.41 X 1.75 inches	Introduced in 1911 but real development began in 1954 for use in Polaroid and Kodak cameras. AAA Alkaline cells became popular in 1970's.
AAAA CELL	8.3 X 42.5 mm 0.33 X 1.67 inches	Available since 1990's. Used for headphone amplifiers, laser pointers, LED penlights, fishing lures and computer styli, etc.

FCC PROPOSAL??

I have recently been told of a proposal by the FCC to reduce the number of Amateur Radio classes from 3 to two by combining the Technician and General classes into one. I have no problem with that. As a “young” General the only big change in my operating was access to more bands. Many of my Tech friends have greater technical abilities than I. The second part of the proposal which promotes all current Generals to Extra Class is a step too far in my opinion I don't think I have the knowledge, skills and abilities to become an Extra. If I did, I would have taken the test by now.

KEEP THE EXTRA CLASS A STAR TO SHOOT FOR, NOT A GIFT!!!